

Report shows increased safety belt use

The Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) recently advised of the availability of a report by the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI) announcing a pre-Labor Day safety belt usage rate of 88.3 percent. UMTRI has now released a report of the results of a direct observation survey of safety belt use conducted during and immediately following the Labor Day holiday. The survey results show a statewide safety belt use rate of 90.5 percent. This rate represents the highest level of statewide safety belt use ever observed in Michigan. Further, this level of safety belt use make Michigan only the fifth state in the country to obtain a statewide rate of 90 percent or higher.

The survey results suggest that the implementation of primary enforcement along with other enforcement and public information and education efforts have been effective in maintaining and continuing to increase safety belt use in Michigan.

UMTRI has provided OHSP with copies of this report, entitled "Direct Observation of Safety Belt Use in Michigan: Fall 2004."

If you would like a copy of this report, please contact Alicia Sledge, OHSP Occupant Protection Program Coordinator at (517) 333-5321 or via e-mail at sledgea@michigan.gov.